

WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 29, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Tracy on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at 5:50 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Vice Chairman Diep led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tracy, Diep, Crozier,
Tran (arrived at 6:00 pm)
Commissioners Absent: Lopez

STAFF PRESENT

Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sgt. Mark Nye, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meetings of October 30, 2007, November 27, 2007, and December 25, 2007, were approved (3-0-2) with Commissioners Tran and Lopez being absent.

**ITEMS TO BE
CONSIDERED**

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 95-100, staff's proposal to install parking restrictions on the west side of Edwards Street, north of Trask Avenue.

**T.C. 95-100
Edwards Street and
Trask Avenue**

Mr. Ozaeta introduced Sergeant Mark Nye to the Commission. Mr. Ozaeta showed and explained the area in question to the Commission using a map. Mr. Ozaeta mentioned there were three schools along this area. He further informed the Commission that this intersection has been on the City's signal priority list for some time. Construction on the new signal is scheduled to begin February/March and be completed March 2008. In preparation for the new signal installation, staff has had to incorporate a left turn lane southbound onto Trask. In order to do that, the road has had to be tapered slightly, making the number two lane adjacent to the curb. Mr. Ozaeta mentioned the existence of an OCTA bus stop at this location which is currently not painted red but should be

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the Municipal Code allows staff to install red curb at any intersection approach for a distance of 20 feet in order to provide a de facto right turn lane. Staff's recommendation was for the installation of 121 feet of red curb in order to facilitate through vehicles traveling south. The work would likely be executed by OCTA if approved, to save the City some money.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Chuck Leckie, of the Bethany Bible Fellowship, spoke on the subject restrictions. Mr. Leckie noted that while he had no problem with the proposed restrictions, he would like to know whether staff had visited the site before or after school. Mr. Ozaeta clarified that staff had indeed visited the site at those times. Mr. Leckie was concerned about motorists ignoring the restrictions and the left turn lane backup going north. Mr. Leckie recommended the possibility of installing "Keep Clear" pavement markings to allow for vehicles making a left turn into the church driveway.

Mr. Ozaeta noted that it would take a period of adjustment for motorists to become accustomed to the new signal and that there may be a change in traffic patterns due to motorists using alternate routes and residents relearning their commute. Mr. Ozaeta explained the signal timing and phasing and even though it may be inconvenient for motorists, overall it would be safer for pedestrians. Sgt. Nye informed the Commission and Mr. Leckie of the plan for enforcement and educating the community.

Mr. Leckie expressed his concern over the left turn lane backing up with parents dropping off their children into the church parking lot. He noted that there have been several rear end collisions. Sgt. Nye clarified for the Commission that it was legal to make a left turn across two yellow lines. Mr. Ozaeta reassured Mr. Leckie that even though vehicles exiting the driveway would have to wait, there would be sufficient time for the southbound lane to clear of traffic and for vehicles to exit the driveway; modifications would be made as needed.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff could revisit the "Keep Clear" request after the signal has been installed and modifications have been made, if there was still a problem.

Motion

Commissioner Crozier moved to approve staff's recommendation; seconded by Commissioner Tran. Chairman Tracy amended the recommendation to include that staff would revisit the subject area in about three months, after the signal installation, approximately the meeting in May. Mr. Ozaeta suggested that making the left turn lane smaller may be a possibility and therefore would have the "Keep Clear" crossing two lanes versus three.

Vote

The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Commissioner Lopez being absent.

Commissioner Crozier excused himself from the meeting at 6:25 pm.

The second item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 70-283, staff's proposal to install parking restrictions on the south side of Trask Avenue, west of Chestnut Street.

***T.C. 70-283
Trask Avenue and
Chestnut Street***

Mr. Ozaeta reported that staff had addressed issues in this area in the past. Residents had complained about the visibility of the stop signs in the area. Staff installed raised median segments on the approach on both sides of Trask and on those raised median segments, installed large stop signs. As a result of the installation, the lanes had to be tapered to make room for the median segments. Staff was informed of a problem by a Corporation Yard employee who mentioned that as he drove through this area traveling east, the lane clearance was only 16 feet with vehicles parked in the subject area. City standards call for a through parking lane to be at least 18 feet.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Ozaeta stated that staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of parking restrictions for an additional 35 feet, adjacent to 13501 Chestnut Street, increasing the distance between the curb and the lane line to a minimum of 18 feet. Mr. Ozaeta explained that 13501 Chestnut would still have parking in front of their home. The Commission was reminded that they approved the installation of the raised median segments.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

George Pham, 7211 Trask Avenue, #19, spoke in opposition to the installation of parking restrictions. Mr. Pham's concern was that residents use this segment for parking, especially from the apartments where parking is limited to two spaces and families have more than two vehicles. Mr. Pham questioned why parking restrictions would only be installed on this corner and not the other three corners. Mr. Ozaeta clarified that the lanes at the other three corners were at least 18 feet and this corner is the only one at 16 feet.

The Commission questioned whether the parking restrictions could be reduced from 35 feet. Mr. Ozaeta explained that any less than 35 feet would be encroaching on the 18 foot lane width.

MOTION

Motion was made by Chairman Tracy to approve staff's recommendation; the motion died due to a lack of a second. Mr. Ozaeta further explained that there are areas in the City that have lane widths less than 18 feet and he would rather see the Commission approve some restrictions rather than not at all.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Diep to approve the installation of 18 feet of parking restrictions; seconded by Commissioner Tran.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 3-0-2 vote with Commissioners Crozier and Lopez absent.

The third item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 77-123, staff's proposal to install parking restrictions on the east side of Monroe Street, north of Westminster Boulevard.

T.C. 77-123 Monroe Street and Westminster Boulevard

Mr. Ozaeta reported that this area is to be included in the signal modification project to begin in approximately a week. Currently there is permitted left turns onto All American and Monroe. There have been a few collisions due to all the activity in the area that has increased the left turn demand. Staff has proposed, as part of the project, to provide left turn protected phasing for Westminster traffic. Mr. Ozaeta explained that the north/west striping includes a shared through and left turn lane and a dedicated right turn lane. The issue is that vehicles behind those making a left turn onto Westminster maneuver around the left turning vehicles to go through the intersection.

Staff had proposed to redo the lane configurations to include left turn pockets and the right turn lane would be a through right. There are not many pedestrians seen here and staff does not foresee an issue with pedestrians obstructing the right turners, thus operating more efficiently.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that unlike the intersection of Edwards and Trask, this intersection involves a departure, not an approach, and thus the Municipal Code does not call for an automatic 20 feet of parking restrictions. In order to provide the left turn lanes, staff has had to narrow the north and southbound through lanes. Parking restrictions need to be installed on the segment north of Westminster Boulevard in order for vehicles traveling north to safely maneuver a right turn onto Monroe Street.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Ozaeta stated that staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of 71 feet of parking restrictions to the driveway and 17 feet north of the driveway, on the east side of Monroe Street, north of Westminster Boulevard.

The Commission inquired about the usage of the parking at the subject location and why staff was requesting the 17 feet north of the driveway. Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that though there is a lot of activity at the park, the parking does not generally extend down to this segment. The additional 17 feet is requested because of sight visibility issues exiting the driveway. Mr. Ozaeta and Sgt. Nye further clarified for the Commission that by allowing parking at this segment, vehicles would have difficulty maneuvering the right turn and may go into oncoming traffic in the left turn pocket, and vehicles that usually park there are those going to the bank, which has ample spaces in its parking lot.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Nancy Sallee, 8232 18th Street, spoke on the subject matter. Ms. Sallee was not opposed to the proposed parking restrictions. Her concern was the overflow parking from City events that park in her neighborhood. Ms. Sallee proposed there be some parking restrictions during the weekend to prohibit parking in her neighborhood. Ms. Sallee mentioned that the park has no parking facilities and would like to see more enforcement of the loading and unloading zone. Mr. Ozaeta suggested refreshing the painting of the loading and unloading zone or the possibility of removing it, thus creating more parking.

Ms. Sallee also suggested the possibility of installing speed bumps on Monroe. She mentioned that with the skate park and the restrictions of access on Beach, the traffic volume and speed has increased. Mr. Ozaeta questioned Ms. Sallee whether the speed had decreased with the installation of the yellow striping; Ms. Sallee could not say. Mr. Ozaeta informed Ms. Sallee of the new police building that was going to be constructed and along with that, there would be a parking structure constructed which could help with the overflow parking issue in her neighborhood. It was mentioned that people may be avoiding the pay lots on the weekend because people may not be aware that the restrictions are only in effect Monday through Friday.

MOTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Tran to approve staff's recommendation; seconded by Chairman Tracy.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 3-0-2 vote with Commissioners Crozier and Lopez being absent.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff had met with parents, teachers, and students regarding the installation of the new traffic signal at Edwards Street and Trask Avenue and educating the community about the proper procedure to cross the street. The Commission requested to be invited to future meetings.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the intersection of Edwards and Humboldt would be revisited in the future. Staff would be meeting with the school district. There is a possibility to have two crossing guards at this location and additional lighting has been ordered from Edison to increase visibility. The need for a flashing beacon will also be discussed.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/
STAFF MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

Vice Chairman Diep questioned the wording for the adjournment minutes and the possibility of scheduling the Traffic Commission meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month rather than the last Tuesday.

The Commission asked for an update on the lighting on Bolsa and the new police building and parking structure.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer

By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary